



# AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY MASTER PLAN

DECEMBER 15, 2011



city on-call services. The Department will research the use of various parks and natural settings as potential drop-off locations for large brush and tree limbs, with consideration that many areas have environmentally sensitive concerns. The Department will seek out four emergency collection sites for brush and woody compostables, in the four quadrants of the City.

## 9.10 / Construction Materials Management

Construction and demolition debris (C&D) account for approximately 20 percent of citywide disposal. Through the requirements of a construction debris ordinance, most construction and demolition debris will be collected and processed by private sector service providers.

### Construction, Deconstruction and Demolition Debris Ordinance

The Department will significantly impact the diversion of C&D debris through development and adoption of a Construction, Deconstruction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance. This ordinance will be developed based on stakeholder input, including the building industry and private sector service providers. Key aspects of this ordinance could include:

- Adopting policies to increase reuse, recycling and composting of products used in remodeling and new construction;
- Requiring larger project building permit holders to provide diversion plans;
- Transitioning to higher rates of diversion requirements; and
- Registering C&D debris facilities and haulers.

The Department will also provide technical assistance to C&D debris generators in support of the ordinance; including:

- Training in soft demolition, deconstruction, and building materials reuse;
- Promotion of building adaptive reuse;
- Information on recycling and reuse outlets and deconstruction services; and
- Information about rates and services available voluntarily provided by private sector service providers and nonprofits.

Nonprofit and private sector service providers will play a significant role in collection and processing of C&D debris generated in the City.

A comprehensive ordinance implemented by 2015 will provide a signal to the private sector of an investment opportunity in C&D processing capacity. The City can take several different approaches to implementing the ordinance. Requirements can be placed on C&D generators, haulers or facilities. The City will conduct a series of stakeholder meetings, targeting the building community to ensure that needs of C&D generators are taken into account and that processing capacity is available to divert construction materials from landfills.

The new ordinance will essentially expand the requirements of the URO to the building community citywide. This will be accomplished through a stand-alone ordinance or an amendment to the URO.

### Resources for Construction, Deconstruction and Demolition Debris Ordinance Implementation

One additional staff member within the Strategic Initiatives Division will be needed for ordinance development, implementation, new rules development, technical assistance and training.

### Construction and Demolition Debris Processing

C&D processing facilities receive and process construction and demolition debris. These types of facilities provide different levels of processing depending on accepted materials and may produce a variety of commodities at each facility. Typical C&D materials accepted include asphalt, concrete, Portland cement, brick, rocks, lumber, wallboard, roofing material, ceramic tile, plastic pipe and associated packaging. Commodities typically produced include gypsum, clean wood, ferrous metal, aluminum, inert material (including engineered fill) and alternative daily cover for landfills. Most C&D facilities are developed based upon one of three basic processes: 1) an outdoor receiving area for floor-sorting without on-site processing equipment, 2) an outdoor receiving area for floor-sorting with on-site processing equipment and 3) floor sort and processing equipment with all operations located inside a building:

The City does not operate any C&D debris processing facilities. Processing this debris into recyclable or reusable materials is provided by private contractors as most C&D materials are generated by private entities.

There is potential for existing facilities to expand or for additional facilities to be built as Zero Waste polices and programs are implemented. The City's role will be to adopt a C&D ordinance to divert construction materials from landfills to appropriate C&D processing facilities. These C&D

facilities can charge fees based on the types and amounts of materials received, the contamination level and the current market pricing of the materials recovered.

### Projected Need for Construction and Demolition Debris Processing

Based on information gathered from regional service providers, the current C&D processing capacity in the region can handle the construction debris volumes currently generated. However, when Zero Waste initiatives are implemented, expansion of existing capacity or the development of new facilities by the private sector will be needed. The new regulations and ordinances provide opportunities for the private sector to construct additional capacity. This capacity will occur through one or more facilities.

## 9.11 / Resource Recovery Center (RRC)

The current Resource Recovery Center located at the FM 812 Landfill site will be redeveloped at the Materials Recovery Facility/Transfer Station (MRF/TS) located at Todd Lane, as part of the expanded bulk floor-sort noted above. This new collection center is envisioned to handle batteries, motor oil, latex paint, anti-freeze, brush and numerous other recoverable materials. It will include a reuse yard for building materials and provide repair and refurbishment for reusable bulk items delivered by the Department or the public. No new space will be needed for this infrastructure project.

### Materials Recovery Facility/Transfer Station (MRF/TS)

The MRF/TS is located at 3810 Todd Ln. on a 7-acre parcel. The MRF/TS was originally used as a MRF to process recyclables from a dual-stream collection system. The Department moved to a commingled Single Stream Recycling collection system, and the MRF/TS was used to collect and handle the recyclables from the route vehicles. From there, the materials were transported to a recycling processing facility in San Antonio. Since October 2010, the Department hauls collected recyclables to a recycling processor in Creedmoor, Texas, directly from its routes, eliminating the expense of transfer operations at the MRF/TS. Currently, the MRF/TS is not in use to transfer or process materials.

The approximately 9,000 square feet of unused usable tipping floor at the MRF/TS will be repurposed into a RRC. The enriched loads from the